



The Urgent Need for Health Care Reform

I strongly support the health care reform effort in the House of Representatives. Simply put, I believe that we cannot afford the current system anymore. It's dragging down our family budgets, the federal budget, our economy and our life expectancies.

Here is a partial list of reasons why we must reform the current healthcare system:

- America spends more on health care than any other G7 country, yet has the highest infant mortality rate and lowest life expectancy.
- Over the last decade, the cost of health insurance went up while over 100%, while wages increased by only 29%.
- On average, 30% of the \$1.8 trillion dollars in premiums that Americans pay to insurance companies pay overhead costs – salaries and administration, lobbying and profits – rather than healthcare.
- Approximately 50 million Americans do not have health insurance. 80% of these uninsured Americans are employed.
- Providing non-preventive emergency and safety net health care to uninsured Americans ends up costing insured Americans tens of billions of dollars each year. The federal government and state governments currently pay 75% of the \$56 billion in uncompensated care provided to the uninsured.